



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: FANEUF  
Serial No.: 09/723,868  
Filed: November 28, 2000  
For: COMBINATION ROPE AND CLIP FOR CULLING FISH  
Group: 3644  
Examiner: SMITH, KIMBERLY S.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT C

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action mailed August 13, 2002.

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson (US Patent No. 6,044,582) in view of Yaman (JP 11-169596A) (newly cited) is improper because these references do not teach every element of Applicant's invention. Independent claim 1 requires "[a] loop capable of exerting a force on the biasing member thereby increasing the gripping force." See specification page 5, lines 9-20. Independent claim 12 contains a similar element. However, neither of the art references teaches this element. Johnson's rope is looped through the hook. See Figures 2 and 3. It is obvious because of the design of the hook, the rope loop cannot increase the gripping force on the hook. Furthermore, Yaman does not provide the missing teaching. In Yaman, the string is attached to the clip through two holes 5, 6 on the sides of the clip. See Figure 1. Thus, it also cannot increase the gripping force of the fish.

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